While enhancement of requirement varied between 7.5% to 30% for selected clothings and general stores items, it varied from 30% to 900% for selected Ammunition items. Ordnance Factories enhanced their production by increase in working hours and re-deployment of manpower. As a result, output of OFs during 1999-2000 increased to Rs. 5400.66 crore as against the initial target of Rs. 4500.28 crore for 1999-2000 set at the beginning of the year registering a growth of 34.20% over the production of the previous year (1998-1999).

China trying to encircle India

5495. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated the 8th April, 2000 captioned "China trying to encircle India"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction with regard thereto stating the strategic implications in so far as country's security is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government keep a constant vigil on our borders and monitor all developments having a bearing on our national security. All necessary measures are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.

Defence supplies from France

5496. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during President of India's visit to France, the French Government conveyed its keen interest on the defence supplies to India in a meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a formal proposal in this regard has since been received from Government of France; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) French defence supplies to India are a matter of ongoing cooperation between the two countries and are discussed regularly at different levels including during the recent visit of the President of India to France. The